

Proposed SB59

February 18, 2013

Co-Chair Terra B. Gerratana  
Co-Chair Susan M. Johnson  
Public Health Committee  
Room 3000, LOB  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Co-Chairs Gerratana and Johnson, and Committee Members;

I am a 53 year old citizen of the State of Connecticut. I was born here, my birth parent's parental rights were terminated here, and my adoption was finalized here. I am also licensed by the State of Connecticut as an attorney and as a professional counselor.

I believe that it is unconscionable, immoral and dehumanizing that the laws of the State of Connecticut deprive me of access by right to my true, original birth certificate.

It is the birth right of every human being to know the most basic fact of their existence: their name and their identity.

This right should not be impinged upon by the government.

There is no good enough reason, no excuse, no feeling, no justification, for depriving me and my descendents, in perpetuity, of our birth identity.


I am not testifying today because I need the law to change for me to have access to my own original birth certificate. I have it. I have it because my birth name was given to my adoptive parents at the time of my adoption, and they gave it to me. I had to follow a myriad of circuitous, demeaning, energy-wasting and time-intensive steps under the state's restrictive laws to persuade a probate court judge to give me a copy of my original birth certificate.

I am here because as a 53 year old licensed attorney, a commissioner of the superior court of this State, authorized by law to issue subpoenas and take oaths, and licensed as a professional counselor entrusted with the mental health and well being of our fellow citizens, I should not have to ask anyone's permission to have access to this basic official documentation of my birth. Nor do I believe that the State should be taking action to deprive me of it.

I sincerely hope this Committee will correct this deprivation under our laws of the human rights of all adults whose adoptions were finalized in this State, and raise a bill affirming their right to access their original birth certificate.

Thank-you for your time and attention. I am happy to answer any of your questions.

Sincerely,



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